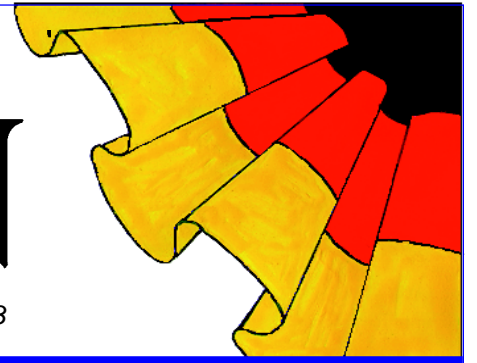


THE CITIZEN

Vol. 32, No. 24

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

December 2, 2003



Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Stuttgart honors Native Americans

Heritage events on Patch Barracks celebrate cultural contributions

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

The 6th Area Support Group celebrated Native American Indian Heritage Month with two Patch Barracks events that focused on family and respect for the environment.

United under the theme "Honoring Life, Honoring Elders, Honoring Heritage," a Nov. 22 powwow in the Patch High School gymnasium and a Nov. 24 lunch event in the Patch Community Club offered opportunities for community members to watch, learn about and participate in various aspects of Native American culture.

"Being Native American is a way of life," said David Lee, chief of network operations for the 52nd Signal Battalion. "It's more than how you look – it's how you live."

Lee served as "master of ceremonies" for the powwow, explaining the cultural significance of various segments of the 6-hour event.

"A powwow is a family reunion," Lee said, adding that it is not uncommon for traditional events to last for days.

And though participants may not belong to the same family or tribe, he said all are welcome – provided they come "with an open mind and an open heart."

Lee also performed at the Nov. 24 lunch event, which featured remarks by Lt. Col. William Sherod, commander of the Stuttgart-based 52nd Signal Battalion, and Nagi WhiteOwl, former clan mother of the Wolf Clan Southern Cherokee Nation.

Sherod said it was appropriate for the military to celebrate Native American Indian Heritage Month, citing the Navajo "code talkers" of World War II and Sacagawea's service to Lewis and Clark's famous expedition as two of the many ties that bind U.S. military history with Native American culture.

WhiteOwl – who 6th ASG Equal Oppor-

*Being a
Native American is
a way of life.
It's more than how
you look – it's
how you live.*

David Lee
52nd Signal Battalion

tunity Officer Sgt. 1st Class Carey Williams said "has been teaching this community ever since she got off the plane" – concluded a series of area appearances with word of thanks for "America's warriors" and a plea for environmental respect.

"If we are going to stand united as co-inhabitants of Mother Earth, we must take a stand [against pollution and destruction of the environment]," she said.

The lunch event also included a buffet of traditional Native American foods and a performance by Patch Elementary School teacher Jan Lowry's first-grade class, who sang a medley of patriotic songs and reenacted the Native American myth of how the stars first appeared in the sky.

6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris ended the event by thanking the volunteer organizers and participants. "We are indeed fortunate to have such individuals in our community," she said.

[Left] A powwow participant pauses after leading a "snake dance" Nov. 22 in the Patch High School gymnasium. The powwow was one of two Stuttgart-area events marking Native American Indian Heritage Month.

INSIDE THIS EDITION



← Pages 8 & 9

Just in time for the holidays, four Stuttgart-area culinary artists hone their skills.

Page 13 →

A Robinson Barracks instructor's "farewell" recital showcases talented young dancers.

